CRMC Rebuilding after the Hurricane

Emergency Procedures

After a hurricane or other catastrophic storm the Coastal Resources Management Council may establish Emergency Procedures for issuing permits. In order for this to happen the Governor must submit a formal request to the President for a disaster declaration, and the normal permitting procedures will cause delays that would impose an undue hardship on disaster victims.

Under emergency procedures:

- The Coastal Resources Management Council will give priority to issuing emergency permits for the reconstruction of essential public facilities such as roads, bridges, and public utilities.
- Emergency permits will be issued for repair of residential and commercial properties that have sustained minimal damage (physically damaged by <50%)
- A temporary moratorium (maximum 30 days) will be put in place for
    - repair to properties that are physically damaged by 50% or more.
    - new alterations requiring CRMC permit which do not result from the disaster.

Structures on Coastal Barriers and Beaches

There are restrictions for repair and rebuilding on Rhode Island's beaches and barrier spits, as outlined in the Coastal Resource Management Council regulations. For buildings physically damaged 50% or more due to the storm:

- on **undeveloped barriers** - buildings damaged by 50% or more cannot be rebuilt
- on **moderately developed barriers** - only water dependent structures that have been physically damaged 50% or more can be rebuilt
- on **all barriers** - structures and onsite wastewater treatment systems damaged 50% or more cannot be rebuilt in the dune setback (75 feet inland from the dune crest. If dune is gone due to erosion, conditions will be evaluated using location of pre-storm coastal features and the extent of the storm erosion).
- On all lands adjacent to a **beach** - structures and onsite wastewater treatment systems damaged 50% or more cannot be rebuilt in the beach setback (50 feet from the top of the beach ramp).

Shoreline Protection Structures

There may be restrictions on rebuilding the shoreline protection structures such as revetments, bulkheads and seawalls. If a shoreline protection structure is physically damaged by 50% or more:

- On barriers – shoreline protection structures cannot be rebuilt
- On lands adjacent to Type 1 waters- shoreline protection structures cannot be rebuilt
- Shoreline protection structures cannot be used to regain property lost to erosion

Definitions

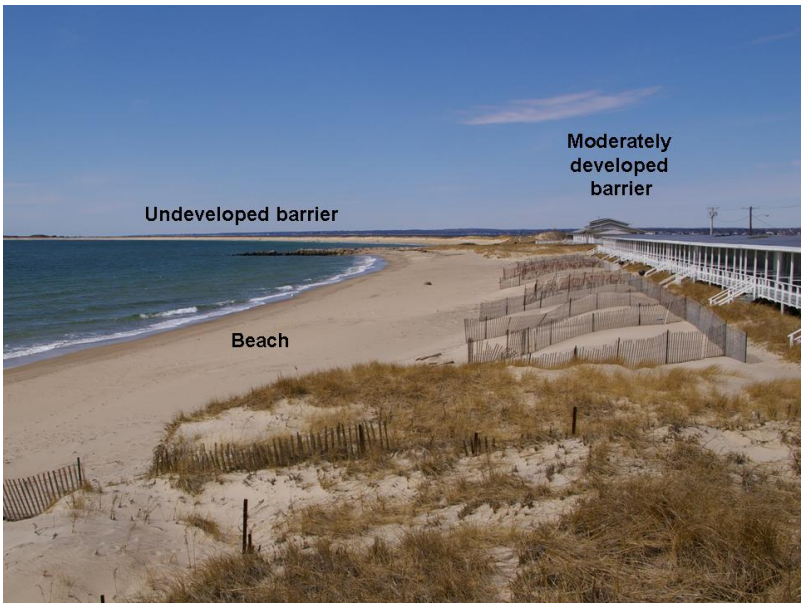
Beaches (Section 210.1)

Beaches include expanses of unconsolidated, usually unvegetated sediment commonly subject to wave action, but may also include a vegetated beach berm. Beaches extend from mean low water landward to an upland rise, usually the base of a dune, headland bluff, or coastal protection structure, pilings or foundation.

Barrier Islands and Spits (Section 210.2)

Barriers are islands or spits comprised of sand, gravel or cobble extending parallel to the coast and separated from the mainland by a coastal pond, tidal water body, or coastal wetland. In addition to a beach, barriers have, in most cases, a frontal foredune zone and often, back barrier dune fields. The lateral limits of barriers are defined by the area where unconsolidated sand or gravel of the barrier abuts bedrock or glacial sediment. CRMC classifies barriers as:

- **undeveloped** – essentially free of houses, surfaced roads and shoreline protection structures
- **moderately developed** – essentially free of houses but may contain surfaced roads, recreational structures and shoreline protection structures
- **developed** – may contain houses, commercial buildings, surfaced roads and shoreline protection structures



Type 1 Waters (Section 200.1)

Type 1 Waters are designated conservation areas by the CRMC. This category includes:

- water areas that are within or adjacent to the boundaries of wildlife refuges and conservation areas
- waters that have retained natural habitat or maintain scenic values of unique or unusual significance
- water areas that are particularly unsuitable for structures due to their exposure to severe wave action, flooding and erosion

Maps of designated barriers and water types are available at CRMC